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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 71% Partly Cloudy Sensex 62,622 | Nifty 18,534 | Gold 60,219 | Silver 71,512 | Dollar 82.68 | Euro 88.38 | GBP 102.47

FLAT CHANCE

Cop punctures nefarious plans

PAGE 5

FLEX PARTY

No penalty for illegal banners

PAGE 3

10 wetlands in city have lost nearly 90 acres to encroachment in past 2 decades, remote sensing analysis has shown

THE CURIOUS CASE OF DISAPPEARING LAKES

Maximum encroachment among these seen at Sarakki, Puttenahalli Lakes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A remote sensing analysis of 10 significant wetlands in the city shows that lakes in Bengaluru are disappearing faster than ever. Conducted by a city-based researcher, the results show that over the last two decades (between 2000 and 2021) Bellandur, Begur, Hulimavu, Agara, Sarakki, Hoskerehalli, Arekere, Gottigere, Uttarahalli, and Puttenahalli lakes, put together, have lost nearly 90 acres to encroachment.

Development of residential layouts, construction of road infrastructure, and industrialization are some forms of encroachments visible through satellite imagery.

Out of all 10 water bodies studied, maximum encroachment was seen at Sarakki and Puttenahalli lakes. While Sarakki lost nearly 15 acres registering a reduction of 21% in the lake area, 2.2 acres of Puttenahalli Lake was eaten up reducing the size of the water body by 23%.

Encroachment at Agara, Hosakerehalli, and Uttarahalli lakes ranged from 9 acres to 1.4 acres. The least amount of encroachment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>

"A management plan helps improve water quality apart from putting a check on encroachment cases. Local communities can be involved in the protection of lakes

–Geetha Priya M, professor at CIIRC and co-researcher

Darkest hours at city's bus stops

Poorly-lit bus stations spread sense of unease among those taking bus after sundown

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Citizens have put up with ill-lit bus terminals, but after a body was found on the KR Market bus stand, many have expressed serious concern over safety issues. A man, working as a bag carrier in City Market, was brutally murdered a few days ago and the body was found at the bus stand.

BM spoke to bus passengers from across the city and their experience after dark has not been pleasant. Rishika, a frequent BMTC commuter, gets down at the Ravi Tent bus stop every day. It is dark and seems unsafe to her.

"I travel from Shivajinagar bus stand to Ravi Tent almost daily at night and sometimes I have to wait at the bus stand for my friend to come and pick me up. It can be scary at night because the entire bus stand is dark and even if someone is already there at the stand, you can't spot them," she said.

Rajkumar Dugar, Founder & Convenor, Citizens For Citizens (C4C), said the main concern for safety arises because the bus stands are not well lit.

"Most of the bus stands don't have good lighting. If you are sitting in a bus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Everyday stories

Antharanga is conducting a two-day theatre festival. While one revolves around a hapless husband sandwiched between a dominant wife and nagging mother, with all the ingredients of wit & humour, another revolves on love, marriage & relationship with a wedding ring as an interesting pivot. This play talks about the conflicts of relationships, materialistic life that hampers human relationship. There is also humour to keep you engaged. **Where: Prabhat KH Kalasoudha, Haumanthanagar; When: June 3 – 4, 7:15 pm; Info: 98809 14509**

02 Building bridges

Catch "Building Bridges", a unique documentary screening by Rahul Chandawarkar. The winter of 2004 saw a small, Urdu theatre troupe from Pune travel all the way to Lahore to participate in the popular, World Performing Arts festival held in that city. Journalist Rahul Chandawarkar, who was the manager-actor with the troupe managed to capture the sights, sounds, moods and experiences of Lahore city on his handy-cam.
Where: Lahe Lahe; When: June 3, 6:00 pm

03 Get grooving

Shuffle Dance or "Cutting Shapes" as it is sometimes called, is characterized by quick and slick footwork, danced to the latest EDM music. It's a fun and upbeat dance that has many mental and physical health benefits (by Motley Dance Company). **Where: Lahe Lahe**
When: June 2, 7.30– 8.30 pm

KAUSHIK JN

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Activists and students hold placards and posters at Freedom Park to raise awareness about the harmful effects of smoking

Saying no to smoking

Activists carry out tobacco-free youth campaign rally at Freedom Park on World No Tobacco Day; event comes at time when smoking is on rise

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A tobacco-free youth campaign rally was conducted by the Karnataka No for Tobacco organisation at Freedom Park on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day.

The event was a crucial one, at a time when data reveals an alarming rise in smokers. Karnataka accounts for 35 per cent of people being booked for public smoking, the highest for any state between 2019-20 and 2021-22. More than five lakh people were fined for smoking in the public.

The event was observed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru. At the event, many tobacco growers from various parts of Karnataka were present.

Activists spoke out on the need to curb smoking urgently. Rolan Gomes who works as an UX designer, said, "Among my relatives, there are a lot of smokers whom I have to interact with on a daily basis. Besides, it is very disgusting to have the smell of cigarettes and bidis.

But since they are my relatives, I have no option but to tolerate it. Having people spit gutkha from buses is equally disgusting. Tobacco is a waste of money, I feel," adding that people should stay away from it. He also added that there was the constant fear of cancer due to being near smokers.

Souvik Bhattacharya from The LightHouse Men's Drugs and Alcohol De-Addiction Centre added that sometimes people start smoking out of curiosity. Other times it might be hereditary as their father or grandfather would be addicted to substance. Other circumstances like bullying or being sexually abused by family might also lead to addiction.

"Addiction is a mental disease. Only rehabilitation is the way out of smoking. If someone is addicted, the individual has to understand that it is their problem. Unless they realise their problem, they will not come out of addiction. A person will need more than one to two rounds of treatment," said Souvik.

> **"Addiction is a mental disease. Only rehabilitation is way out of smoking**
> – Souvik Bhattacharya

He added that 90 per cent of addicts do not want to go to rehab willingly. Families usually take the initiative.

He also explained that being an addict affects the entire family with the problem of addiction. "People need more education about addiction and not hide from it. Every person next door has a problem. More people should come out in the open regarding the issue."

A student council, but in name only

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Students of a prominent college in the city have alleged that the management has decided to dissolve their student council, taking away even the little power of negotiation they had with the authorities.

A student who wished to remain anonymous told Bangalore Mirror that the student council elections, which had to be conducted in April to elect a fresh council for the upcoming academic year, had not been conducted.

Citing the incident when the police had served a notice to the college for allowing a controversial skit that contained offensive remarks about Ambedkar and the Dalit community to be performed on campus, the student said that the college refused to take any responsibility regarding the matter, placing the blame on the student council and has been using it as a reason to justify the dissolvement.

Another student from the same college said since student unions are banned, procedures for the student council elections are set according to the whims and fancies of the management. "They (student councils) are now constituted only for the purpose of entertainment and perform as mere fest management teams. The quality of the students who stand for the elections is not what is expected out of a leader. It is what happened with our college," she said.

> **Students of a Bengaluru college allege that their student council has been dissolved by authorities, taking away the little power they had**

She added that girls of the college are often victims of sexual and misogynistic comments while present at other campuses, as they belong to an all-girls college. "There is no way to protest anything because there is no way to unionise," she explained.

While the college has not issued an official circular, students are certain that the council has been dissolved.

"Even if there is one, the college will directly control them like it happens in many other campuses already – where the management picks and chooses among their favourites," she said.

That's anything but fine

BBMP removes 34,541 illegal flexes and banners; activists ask about penalty imposed

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It is a known fact that political parties vie among themselves to put up flexes and banners in the city despite a ban on such activities. A public interest litigation (PIL) is pending in the High Court concerning this menace.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Advertisement Department has to give permission to put up banners or flexes after verifying the applications and collecting specified fees from the applicants. No political party has sought permission before doing so.

Recently, the BBMP Assistant Commissioner (Advertisement) submitted a report to the High Court about the measures taken to remove unauthorised flexes in the city. They claimed to have identified 35,137 unauthorised flexes between March and May 25 and removed 34,541 of them. There is no information on the remaining ones. No penalty was collected by the BBMP authorities from those responsible for the same.

The Assistant Commissioner stated that 40 FIRs were filed and 37 complaints were lodged with the jurisdictional police against those responsible for putting up banners. Among the 40 FIRs, 26 were registered in Yelahanka Zone, six in East Zone, four in West Zone, three in South Zone, and one in RajaRajeshwari Nagar Zone. No FIRs were registered in Bommanahalli, Dasarahalli, and Mahadevapura Zones.

File photograph of flexes and banners collected at a BBMP office

Among the 37 complaints lodged by the BBMP, Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Zone leads the list with 20 complaints. East Zone is in second place with 11 complaints, four in West Zone, and two in South Zone. No complaints were lodged with the police in Bommanahalli, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, and Yelahanka Zones, despite thousands of illegal banners there.

Among the eight BBMP Zones, Bengaluru East Zone is in the first place with 11,309 illegal flexes, the West Zone is second with 9,961, Raja Rajeshwari Nagar is third with 5,848, South Zone has 4,809, Dasarahalli has 1,497, Mahadevapura has 879, Yelahanka has 609, and Bommanahalli has 225.

The agency claims to have removed flexes from all zones except 575 from the East Zone and 21 from the Dasarahalli Zone.

Among the eight BBMP Zones, Bengaluru East Zone is in the first place with 11,309 illegal flexes; the West Zone is second with 9,961

"At this juncture, it is necessary to mention that despite the ban/restriction on the display of advertisement hoardings, flexes, or banners and other displays by the Election Commission of India during the Assembly elections, the political parties and their supporters have erected unauthorised advertisements. The BBMP authorities have tried their best to contain this menace and have cleared almost all such illegal displays," the BBMP Assistant Commissioner informed the High Court. The Court has adjourned the hearing of the PIL to June 5.

Meanwhile, Amaresh S, an RTI activist, demanded that the BBMP Assistant Commissioner come out with the details of revenue obtained from auctioning the material of displays seized by BBMP. "It has become a habit for the BBMP authorities to give wrong information," he said.

KAUSHIK JN

Dayanand's turn now

Newly appointed Police Commissioner B Dayanand takes charge at the Commissioner of Police Office

15 govt officers raided

The Lokayukta sleuths in Karnataka on Wednesday carried out searches at 57 locations simultaneously against 15 government officers who are accused of amassing wealth disproportionate to their known source of income.

According to the Karnataka Lokayukta, the raids were carried out at multiple locations in 11 districts.

Those raided include Bangalore Electricity Supply Company chief engineer in Bengaluru HJ Ramesh, Deputy Director of Factories (Labour department) in Bengaluru TV Narayanappa, and Gram Panchayat secretary SD Rangaswamy.

The office of the Lokayukta said the value of the disproportionate assets will be calculated after the completion of the search operation. —PTI

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Rain causes ripple effect

Construction of bridge in Bellandur leads to road closures, traffic troubles

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Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) stated that the road was also closed down on Wednesday due to ongoing civil work; A resident mentioned that due to the ongoing work, there is a lot of stench and mosquitoes

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike BBMP stormwater drain (SWD) team has undertaken construction of a bridge, 24-metre-long, at Bellandur Kodi Road to prevent overflow of water during the rains. The team began work on the diversion pipeline at Bellandur Kodi Road. However, due to excess water from Bellandur Kere, the soil around the pipe washed away, and the road was closed down on Monday.

While they intended to finish the work in a day's time, heavy rains on Tuesday resulted in a surge of water flow through the lake, halting the work and causing another day's delay in opening the road. The road serves as a major connecting point for residents of Bellandur, Agrahara, people moving towards Sarjapur, and even the residents of Yemlur.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) stated that the road was also closed down on Wednesday due to ongoing civil work. They asked commuters to cooperate and take alternative routes to reach Outer Ring Road (ORR). Suggested routes included commuting through Old Airport Road and Marathahalli, and then from Domlur Flyover to the junction.

While no timeline has been given for completion of the work, many commuters have questioned the lack of clarity as they are facing problems with alternative routes. "If I have to take the Marathahalli route to reach the ORR, it is better than dealing with the huge traffic piling up there. Taking that route is a nightmare, whether in the morning or evening. The Bellandur Kodi Road would be used as a shortcut. However, the road should be improved with asphalt. Right now, it is only a muddy stretch and not asphalted," said a commuter, Rakesh T.

> **"If I have to take the Marathahalli route to reach the ORR, it is better than dealing with the huge traffic piling up there**
> – Rakesh T, commuter

A resident of the area mentioned that due to the ongoing work, there is a lot of stench and mosquitoes around the locality. They said the bridge work should also be completed as soon as possible.

Some residents even pointed out that their house helpers come walking through the stretch. However, as the road is closed, many have even taken a holiday. An official from BTP said that they are unsure about when the work will be completed.

Lake, we have a date

Bellandur Lake rejuvenation gets deadline for December 2024

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A view of the bellandur Lake; Inset: Karnataka's Environment, Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre visits the site

Karnataka's Environment, Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre has set December 2024 as the new deadline for the complete rejuvenation of Bellandur Lake. He announced the deadline during his visit to the ailing water body on Wednesday morning to take stock of the ongoing restoration work.

"There has already been a lot of delay in the revival process. The lake is full of pollutants and thus poses a danger to human health. The purpose of my visit is to expedite the process and ensure that the water body is completely free of any form of pollutant by 2024," said Khandre.

The minister, who was accompanied by officials from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), also expressed his concerns about the current lake water quality, which is still far from the new standards prescribed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). However, he added that direction has been given to the officials concerned to ensure that the water quality of the lake and that of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) meet the standards prescribed by NGT.

He also warned that strict action will be taken against those who discharge untreated wastewater into the lake. The minister further probed officials on the condition of 14 STPs that are functioning with a total capacity of 560 MLD and informed that five of these STPs are old, using outdated technology, and thus in need of upgradation.

"These STPs were to be established and upgraded by 2021 itself but there has been a delay. However, all the agencies and officials concerned have been directed to expedite the process and ensure that the STPs are fitted with the latest technology, so we meet the NGT's water quality standards," added Khandre.

Officials also briefed the minister on the amount of silt that is yet to be removed from Bellandur Lake.

"Nearly 60 per cent of the silt has been removed but there is still a lot to go. Moreover, lakhs of tonnes of the excavated silt are still lying on site and have not been dumped at the designated dumping sites. The officials transporting the silt are meeting with stiff protests from the villagers living around the dumping sites. The authorities on-ground are trying to resolve the issue," said Khandre. He further expressed his concerns about Bengaluru's lakes being subjected to a lot of pollution owing to the increasing population and unauthorised construction activities. "The state pollution control board has been instructed to take strict action against defaulters under the Water Act.

There is a possibility of water shortage over the coming days, and it is our responsibility to preserve all the remaining lakes for the future generation," said the Minister.

The Bangalore Development Authority started the restoration work of Bellandur in December 2020 and as per the initial plan, the rejuvenation work was to be over by August 2022. Under the project, nearly 916 acres of area is being excavated and over 32 lakh cubic meters of silt have to be removed. The project was taken up at a total cost of Rs 100.3 crores.

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Underpass under threat

Hare Krishna Road

The underpass In Hare Krishna Road has a clogged stormwater drain. Urgent action is required from BBMP.

Traffic trouble

Lalbagh

The traffic hurdle near Lalbagh West Gate traffic Junction on RV Road needs to be looked at.

Debris dumping

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road

Footpaths have become unusable due to debris accumulation near Woodlands Hotel on Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road.

CRIME FILES

Marijuana peddler caught in police net

A man was arrested, selling marijuana near colleges and PGs at a vacant lot near Gubbalala. The accused has been identified as Fayaz Pasha alias Pillu.

Talaghattapur police station got information about the sale of ganja at the vacant plot and conducted an operation to arrest the accused.

The police seized 15 kg ganja, cash and a bike worth, all worth Rs 10.50 lakh, from the accused. Cases were registered against the accused at various police stations including Banashankari, Jayanagar, Koramangala, KS Layout. **BMB**

3 boys feared drowned

Three boys of class 10 who had gone for a swim drowned on Tuesday near Neeladri, Level 2 of Electronics City. The boys have been identified as Teertha, 13, Kiran, 13, Faizal, 14.

Theertha and Faizal, who had gone out to play on Tuesday evening, did not return at night, so the family members started searching for them. Then the boy's bicycles, clothes and shoes were found near the lake. The boys didn't know how to swim but had still gone into the lake. Firefighters have been searching for the bodies of the boys since Tuesday. A case has been registered at the Electronic City Police Station.

School principal caught taking bribe for result

A school principal has fallen into the trap of Lokayukta. He was caught red-handed while receiving a bribe of Rs 5,000. Principal Narayan was trapped by the Lokayukta officials as he was receiving Rs 5,000 from a woman named Divya. This incident took place in Basaveshwara Boys High School in Rajajinagar. The principal is said to have withheld the Class 9 results and demanded a bribe to pass the students and give TC. The trap operation was conducted under the leadership of DySP Basavaraj.

Minors from Goa rescued in Hubballi

Police on Wednesday rescued two Goa-based girls from Karnataka after they were allegedly lured and kidnapped on the promise of luxurious lifestyle and found locked in a house in the state, an official said. The police arrested two persons from Hubballi, from where the girls - aged 12 and 15 - were rescued, he said. According to police, the girls were kidnapped from two villages in North Goa and the missing persons' reports were filed on May 29. **PTI**

Puncture gang? This cop has nailed 'em

PSI collects half a kg of nails thrown on roads, asks his subordinates to keep eye out for miscreants

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It seems the puncture mafia has become active all over again in the city. There have been instances of people getting a flat tyre and left with no option but to drag their vehicles to the nearest puncture shop.

The puncture mafia was very active on the Outer Ring Road and other important roads in 2014, 2015 and 2016. A few active citizens had collected several kilograms of nails thrown on the roads by people working at puncture shops.

Now, Ashok Nagar Traffic Police have come across nails and iron wires thrown on roads at Nanjappa Circle, Anepalya, Opera Junction and other areas. The traffic police have decided not only to collect them from the roads but also keep a vigil on those throwing nails and iron wires on the roads.

"My car and two-wheeler got punctured thrice in two months at different locations. When I searched on these roads, I found nails and iron wires. It is not clear whether any miscreant has thrown nails and wires on these roads to disrupt traffic movement or it is handiwork of a few people working at puncture shops. I directed my subordinates to keep a vigil," said Ashok Nagar Police Sub-Inspector (Traffic) Mohammad Ali Imran (**pic**).

The Police Sub-Inspector said he had directed traffic jockeys to search for such things apart from clearing broken tree branches and water logging in the morning. "I collected more than half kg of nails and wires. The public must complain at the nearest police station if they come across people throwing nails or wires on the road. The law and order police must keep a vigil on miscreants too," he said.

Sreenivas Lad, a businessman from HBR Layout, appreciated the efforts of PSI Imran and said the police inspectors in the city must advise their subordinates to keep an eye out for these miscreants. "The nail mafia is active on Hennur Main Road that leads to Kempegowda International Airport. My friend had to leave his vehicle on the Hennur Main Road when car got a flat tyre. It was night, so we had a tough time," said Lad.

Recalling how he had to struggle when an auto rickshaw tyre was punctured on Assaye Road a few weeks ago, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi alleged unscrupulous people working at puncture shops are responsible for the nails and iron wires on the road.

"Ashok Nagar Police Sub-Inspector's decision to direct traffic police to keep a vigil on is appreciated. It will be a great help and relief for motorists if all police inspectors direct their men to remove nails and iron wires from the roads too," said Ravi.

Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Association general secretary C Sampath too appreciated the SI's for collecting half a kg of nails and iron wires from the roads. "Puncture mafia has become a nuisance for auto rickshaw drivers and motorists. The police must act tough against those responsible for this menace. Many auto rickshaw drivers are compelled to spend money and also waste time in repairing the punctured tyres," Sampath said.

> **"My own car and two-wheeler got punctured thrice in two months at different locations. When I searched on these roads, I found nails and iron wires with sharp edges**

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Speed run for test trains

For the first time in history of South Western Railways, test trains are all set to run at a speed of 143 kmph & reduce travel time

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As the speed trials are set to start from Thursday. The Oscillating Monitory System (OMS) speed trial will be conducted on KSR Bengaluru – Jolarpettai (excluding Jolarpettai) broad gauge electrified double line section on Thursday for increasing speed of trains from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. During the speed trial, the inspection train will run at a speed of 143 km per hour on the electrified double line.

A railway official said, "Keeping pace with technology, the railways have adopted a state-of-the-art system to detect the condition of tracks and railway vehicles. OMS is an advanced portable instrument which continuously measures vertical and lateral accelerations at any desired location on the floor of a carriage while in motion."

Officials said that the railways is all set to reduce travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai as it plans to operate premium trains such as Chennai-Bengaluru Shatabdi express and Chennai-Mysore Vande Bharat express along with some other trains at 130kmph between Chennai and Jolarpettai starting June. As a result, these trains are expected to save between 30 to 45 minutes on the Bengaluru route. However, travel time for other trains to Chennai is likely to be reduced as many of them use the Jolarpettai route by the above mentioned trains.

File image of the trial run of Vande Bharat Express from Chennai to Mysuru via Bengaluru

> **Railways have adopted state-of-the-art system to detect condition of trains, tracks** – an official

The railways is also working on upgrading tracks until Chennai for higher speed operation. The zone is identifying several trains that pass through the route to operate them at an increased speed which might require different types of testing. The coaches and locomotives already have the capacity to run at 130 kmph. Thanks to the upgraded tracks. The railways were able to increase the speed of many trains.

An official said, "Among all the zones of IR, SWR has achieved a visible improvement in mobility by 53 per cent -- the average speed of goods trains (including stabling and yarding) increased from 13.97 kmph in April 2022 to 21.6 kmph in April 2023. In 2022-23, SWR achieved the highest ever Electrification of 874 railway kilometre (RKM.) All major routes of SWR are being electrified. This has not only saved Rs 205 crore on diesel expenditure in 2022-23 but also eliminated the need for traction change enroute. In 2022-23, 24 trains were converted to electric traction and the same year, SWR achieved the highest ever commissioning of doubling and a new line of 228.5 km.

Doubling of critical routes such as Yelahanka - Penukonda (120 Km) and Hubballi - Bengaluru (469 km) also contributed to the improvement of punctuality.

Crack trains

With the doubling of tracks for goods trains, they were run as 'Cracks' meaning the trains would run end-to-end without any stoppages in between, achieving a higher average speed, and effectively reducing the transit time.

An official said that in 2021-22, they ran 2,503 Crack trains and in 2022-23, they ran 6,077 Crack trains transporting greater amounts of cargo over longer distances in lesser time. This improved throughput and enhanced section capacity has resulted in better turnaround of goods wagons.

Amend law to punish rape of bodies

A division bench of the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday said that the Rape Prevention Act needs to be amended to punish those raping and mutilating bodies.

The High Court asked the Centre to amend the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or bring in new ones criminalising and providing for punishment for 'carnal intercourse' with corpses. A recommendation has also been made to the central government in this regard. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code should also include rape of a body, said the bench of the High Court comprising Justices B Veerappa and Venkatesh Naik T.

The court had heard the murder and rape case of a young woman in Tumakuru, imposed life imprisonment only for the crime of murder as there is currently no law to punish the rape of a body.

High Court asks Centre to amend relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code

The accused had murdered a woman and then had sexual intercourse with her body. The court, however, confirmed the rigorous life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 for the accused under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC.

Citing the examples of several countries, including UK and Canada, where necrophilia and crime against bodies are punishable criminal offences, the HC recommended that such provisions be introduced in India.

"There have been incidents of rape on bodies in hospital mortuaries. CCTV should be installed in mortuaries to prevent such acts," said the judge. The bench also recommended that CCTV should be installed in hospital mortuaries within six months. It has also directed to maintain cleanliness in mortuaries.

— BMB

Costly drainwork: ₹2,000 cr to reduce flooding

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With urban floods recurring year after year in Bengaluru, experts say that there is a need to remodel the city's drain infrastructure. Unplanned real estate development unfortunately damages the city's stormwater infrastructure which in turn leads to flooding of the area during instances of heavy rainfall.

According to Knight Frank's report on mitigating Bengaluru floods, the city requires a stormwater drainage master plan for the efficient management of infrastructure and sufficient revenue stream to fund the required capital expenditure.

Currently, Bengaluru has a drain length of 842 km which includes primary and secondary drains. Owing to the spatial expansion, the city broadly requires an addition of approximately 658 km of major drains adding up to a total length of 1,500 km. "As per our analysis, the total cost of construction of new primary drains along with rehabilitating the existing drains sums up to an estimated Rs 2,003 crore. In addition to construction and maintenance of primary drains, the tertiary drains and the lakes need interventions in the form of cleaning, dredging etc totalling approximately Rs 800 crore.

A file image of the recent flooding in BTM Layout

"Thus, capital expenditure to construct, rejuvenate and rehabilitate Bengaluru's stormwater drain infrastructure is estimated to be Rs 2,800 crore. In line with our estimates, the Karnataka government in its FY2023-24 budget announced an allocation of Rs 3,000 crore for developing stormwater infrastructure in the city, with assistance from the world bank," the report stated.

Bengaluru's geography

The city is located on the ridge along three valleys: Koramangala-Challaghatta Valley (225 sq km), Hebbal Valley (207 sq km) and the Vrishabhavathi Valley (165 sq km). The configuration of these valleys has provided Bengaluru with a natural system of drainage without recourse to pumping.

Economic growth and drainage

Bengaluru's limits under its Urban Local Body (ULB) which is the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), expanded to 741 sq km in 2011 from 226 sq km in 1995.

Due to population influx and the real estate and infrastructure development, the share of built-up area of the city has increased from 37.4% in 2002 to 93.3% in 2024. As a result of rapid and unplanned development, the infrastructure supporting the natural eco-system of Bengaluru, especially the stormwater drainage system, has come under severe stress.

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STOP PLASTIC

Recycling is not the best or most realistic option – here's how we must respond

Recycling was once considered the obvious solution to the excessive amount of new (or virgin) plastic produced each year. This is no longer realistic. Global recycling capacity simply cannot keep up with the taking, making and wasting of natural resources.

Growing mountains of plastic waste are accumulating in the poorest countries as affluent nations such as the UK ship their recycling overseas. But some nations are importing far more plastic waste than they can possibly recycle.

The recycling process itself also creates problems. A new report by Greenpeace and the International Pollutants Elimination Network has revealed how plastics which are made with or come into contact with toxic chemicals, such as flame retardants, can contaminate the recycling process by spreading these toxins through subsequent batches of plastic waste.

Another recent study showed that recycling facilities can release hundreds of tonnes of microplastics into the environment each year.

Only 6-9 per cent of all plastic ever produced has been sent for recycling. Although plastic and other waste is collected for recycling in most countries, the amount of material that is remade into the same or similar products (what is called closed-loop recycling) is extremely low.

Only 2 per cent of plastic waste is recycled in a closed loop and not turned into something of lower quality, which is called downcycling.

Recycling can not fully replace virgin material as it can only be recycled twice before losing necessary properties, and so most recycling results in a downgraded material that cannot be used for the same purpose.

A more sustainable approach would prioritise preventing plastic waste by taking action at earlier stages of a plastic product's lifecycle: reducing how much plastic is ultimately made, reusing what exists and replacing plastic with alternative materials where appropriate.

Reduce

Manufacturers must stop making so much unnecessary plastic to reduce the amount entering the economy. There is no case for making plastics that are impossible to collect, reuse or recycle, or are toxic. Yet they are abundant: think multi-layered sachets, thin films and wrappers. These should be phased out as a priority.

Global caps on plastic production could restrict its use to reusable products and packaging, reducing the pressure on recycling systems.

You can refuse single-use packaging when shopping if alternatives are available and affordable. Choose loose vegetables, or products wrapped in packaging that can be refilled.

Reuse

Using the plastic you already have for as long as possible reduces the amount of new products and packaging that need to be made and how much waste is ultimately sent for recycling.

Roughly 250 billion single-use coffee cups are used worldwide every year – a figure that could be slashed by governments setting national mandates for reusable cups and bottles.

This might involve shops, cafés and other venues providing reusable packaging for any products they sell and ensuring each one is used, tracked, washed, returned and replenished for the next consumer cycle.

Substitute

Metals, glass, or paper can be used instead of plastic, but there is no universal sustainable alternative. The most appropriate material depends on the item's use.

The environmental consequences of any material should be rigorously assessed across its entire life cycle – from production to use and disposal – to ensure it does more good than harm. And such assessments must consider all social, environmental and economic costs.

The true cost of making, distributing and disposing of plastic is estimated to be more than ten times greater than what the customer pays for the product.

Including the hidden costs of environmental damage and human misery arising from pollution in the price of virgin plastic, by taxing manufacturers or retailers for instance, could boost the economic case for alternatives.

Recycling can still be useful Not all plastics can be reused, especially medical devices. When all alternatives have been exhausted, recycling keeps material in the economy and temporarily delays the need for more virgin plastic.

But the existence of recycling shouldn't justify making more plastic.

Recycling must not pollute. Manufacturers should only make plastics which can be recycled via methods proven to be safe and clean, and ban toxic additives.

Simple labelling can help consumers make informed decisions about how, where and what to either reuse or recycle, which would help prevent recycling loads becoming contaminated with non-recyclable waste and toxins.

Plastics sent for recycling should be treated in the most socially and environmentally responsible way.

High-income countries which export waste to poorer countries for cheap recycling do so without guarantees that infrastructure exists to manage this waste where it ends up.

The result is waste leaking into the environment, and toxic plastic blocking drainage channels and causing floods. Some of this is burned outdoors, which comes with its own risks to health and the environment. Banning or restricting exports would help.

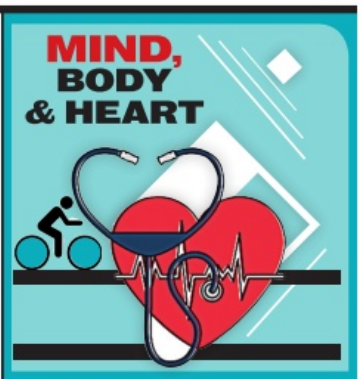
Precarious workers in the informal waste sector collect, sort and sell recyclable materials and carry out 60 per cent of global recycling.

Waste reclaimers endure poor health and low pay but their extensive knowledge is invaluable and must be acknowledged. Policies to protect their rights and improve their livelihoods are needed.

Countries meeting in Paris for the second of five rounds of negotiations for an international treaty to end plastic pollution will discuss all areas of the plastic lifecycle - from the extraction of material to manufacturing, use and disposal.

Banning unnecessary plastics, toxic additives and waste exports should be high on the agenda, along with schemes to encourage reuse and repair.

(By Cressida Bowyer, Keiron Roberts and Stephanie Northen, University of Portsmouth, The Conversation)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm due to get married in August, but I've had a huge falling out with my maid of honour, who's been my best friend since we were at college.
I wish I could just erase her from the day and ask someone else, to step in, but it feels too late as she's having a dress made and is involved in the preparations.
She just hasn't been very nice to me. She's angry and bitter, which I'm guessing comes from the fact that she's been single for many years. She undermines me and says my ideas for the wedding are rubbish. Then on my hen weekend, she got very drunk and made a nasty speech. She dragged up my past relationships and topped it off by saying how amazed everyone is that I'm getting married before her because she was always the "hot one". I've barely spoken to her since. What can I do?

COLEEN SAYS

Well, maybe she needs a truth bomb! If she feels that she can spout off her opinions without bothering to stop and think if they're hurtful, then why can't you? It's such an important day and it should be a happy day, and perhaps if she hears some home truths then it might make her reassess her behaviour and reflect on why she's being so mean to you.
I'm guessing it's more about her than it is about you, and the wedding has triggered lots of negative emotions around her own circumstances and envy.
I think she does need to know that you're not prepared to risk your wedding being spoiled and that if she treats people badly, she'll lose them. She should be on your side, being supportive and happy for you, not making you dread your own wedding. Hopefully, being honest with her will have an effect but, if it doesn't, then I'd seriously consider asking someone else to step in.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Let there be lights at bus stops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stop after sunset, you can't see anything. For the past six months, we have been requesting the BBMP to install lights in a bus stand in Cunningham Road. The bus stands in the city are so dark, that even if someone passes by you can't make out who that person is, and this reduces the sense of security. If somebody wants to do something illegal there, even if there is a camera, you can't make out who is doing what there," he said.

He added that in Bengaluru there is an urgent need to install emergency or panic buttons at bus stands. "We are a city that takes pride in technological advancement, and we should be making use of it. There should be panic buttons at bus stops so that if anybody is in danger, they can be rescued by the nearest Hoysala. Another thing I have noticed is that several private vehicles are parked at bus stands and bus shelters, and this increases safety concerns for the people," he added.

A senior BMTC official told BM that the BMTC is planning to install panic buttons at bus stands in the coming months. "We have CCTV surveillance at every bus stop and we are continuously monitoring the scene. Soon there will also be panic buttons at the bus stands to ensure public safety," she said.

Priyank Kharge to be IT & BT Minister

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge will once again be in-charge of IT & BT department in the State, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday affecting a minor re-allocation of portfolios to his Cabinet.

Kharge will take care of IT & BT along with existing portfolio, while Large & Medium Industries Minister M B Patil has been given the additional charge of Infrastructure Development. The CM has divested himself of both these portfolios.

Sources said, initially, Patil was given the IT & BT portfolio along with Industries. However, in a subsequent revision the department went to Kharge along with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. With Patil keen on IT & BT, apparently opposing this move, Siddarmaiah had kept the portfolio with himself. **PTI**

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I, Srinivas H B R/a. No. 6/2, 13th Cross, Kanteerava Colony, Agrahara Dasahalli, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079. I have changed my minor daughter name From BINDUSHREE S to YASHASWINI S. Vide affidavit Date: 31.03.2023. Sworn before Notary: Ravi Kumar V.

I, SAMEER AHMED also knows as PRAVEEN D R/at No.9, Balakrishna Road Soongi Layout R S Palya Bangalore – 560033, have changed my Minor child name from ALICE PRAVEEN to AYESHA S vide affidavit dated: 30/5/2023 Before Notary C.Sharada Bangalore.

I, SAMEER AHMED also knows as PRAVEEN D R/at No.9, Balakrishna Road Soongi Layout R S Palya Bangalore – 560033, have changed my Minor child name from AMANDA PRAVEEN to MARYAM S vide affidavit dated: 30/5/2023 Before Notary C.Sharada Bangalore.

I, Mohammed Ameer Jan Saheb S/o Abdul karim No 18 4th cross b'lore-45 have changed my name to ameer Jan for all purposes.

I, Deepak Kapoor, Residing at No C 213, Cassia Block, Brigade Millennium, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore -560078, Have changed our minor son name RAAGHAV KAPOOR to RANSH KAPOOR vide affidavit dated 31/05/2023 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil. G.G Bangalore

I,VIJAY Kumar s/o Om Prakash Nigam, R/O 11211, Sobha Silicon Oasis, Beratena Agrahar, Hosa Road,Electronic City, Bangalore-560100, have changed my name to Vijai Kumar Nigam for all future purposes.

I, PRAVEEN D, R/at No.9, Balakrishna Road Soongi Layout R S Palya Bangalore – 560033, have changed my name to SAMEER AHMED vide affidavit dated: 30/5/2023 Before Notary C.Sharada Bangalore.

I Kaushik Manjegowga Poornesh S/o Poornesh Manjegowda R/o 22, Kodihalli, Hal 3rd Stage, B'luru-560075 have changed my name to Kaushik Manjegowda Poornesh Affidavit Dt.31/05/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Syed Naseer Syed Gaffar, Aged 51 yrs, R/o. #2/29, 4th Main, Opp. Maruthi L/o., New Gurappanapalya, BTM L/o., 1st Stage, Blr-29, have changed my name to SYED NASEER for all purposes.

I Baladi Kusumavathi D/O, Shankar Narayan R/o #157, 6th Cross, Paschim County, Kereguddadhahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru - 560090 have changed my name to Kusuma Hebbar

I, Ruksar Mohammad Imran Shaikh #47 Haniya Residency Jp Nagar 5th Phase Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Ruksar Riyaz Poonawala for all purposes

I Mohamed Hayath S/O, Naseeba Gulnaz R/o Prestige Song Of The South Begur Main Road Yelenahalli 560068 Bengaluru, have changed my name to Mohammed Hayath

I, Pinky Vinod Jain W/O, Vinod Kumar Jain R/o No 10 Rama Iyengar Road Vv Puram Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to Pinky Vinod Kumar Jain for all purposes

I Mahammadshafiulla S/O, Mukhtiyar Pasha R/o 07 15th Cross Arfath Nagar Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Mohammed Shafiulla

I, Asma Khan, Aged 40 yrs, R/o. #5/1, 1st Crs, New Gurappanapalya, Blr-29, have changed my name to ASMA ZIA for all purposes.

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When's payday? Waste pickers ask

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The Thyajya Shramika Sangatane, an organisation of workers and small traders in the informal waste sector, has submitted an online petition to the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka DK Shivakumar, and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. The petition calls for the release of wages for waste pickers operating in dry waste collection centres (DWCC) that have been pending for over a year.

The DWCC in Bengaluru, which started in 2011, has proven to be an effective decentralised system for dry waste management. It can recover over 45 per cent of recyclable waste, while diverting non-recyclable waste from landfills.

According to organisations such as Thyajya Shramika Sangatane, Hasiru Dala, Swachaa, and GILGAL, which work with waste pickers, there are pending payments of Rs 9,41,03,212 for 980 months across 46 wards. In 2011, BBMP decided to issue Occupational ID cards to waste pickers, and it was included in the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules at the national level. The bye-laws state that DWCCs should be managed by waste pickers or self-help groups (SHG).

The online petition initiated by Thyajya Shramika Sangatane on Change.org states that the Memorandum of Agreement signed by BBMP with the operators of the centres specifies a payment of Rs 56,316 for the collection of dry waste for

six months. Additionally, it states that the operators will be paid Rs 23,316 per month if BBMP fails to provide vehicles. However, the payments have been pending thus far.

Data from GILGAL, which supports the wards in Yelahanka such as Kempegowda, Chowdeshwari, Attitude, and Yelahanka Satellite Town, shows that there are 28 months of pending payment in each ward, amounting to a total of Rs 20,481,356.

For the wards covered by Swaacha in the Yelahanka zone, which includes Jakkur, Thanisandra, Kodigehalli, Vidyaranyapura, Byatarayanapura, Doddabmasandra, and Kuvempunagar, there are 187 months of pending payment across all wards, totaling Rs 16,416,464.

The wards supported by Hasiru Dala in Bommanahalli, East, West, Mahadevpura, RR NAGAR, South, and West zones have 35 wards with 681 months of pending wages, costing Rs 57,207,392. The organisations demand immediate payment of the wages.

Water body snatchers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was seen at Begur Lake, Gottigere Lake, Bellandur Lake, Arekere Lake, and Hulimavu Lake. Their area was eaten up mostly due to the construction of buildings noticed after 2005.

Researchers say the shrinkages are mostly due to the development of residential areas and unplanned urbanisation. "Lakes in Bengaluru have been disappearing due to rapid urbanisation as it has posed a major danger to natural resources in several parts of the city.

The disappearance and abandonment of water bodies have resulted in a slew of problems, including tank life span reduction, water contamination, groundwater depletion, encroachments, and health dangers.

We conducted the study to highlight the issue and help preserve these water bodies," Dr Geetha Priya M, professor at Centre for Incubation, Innovation, Research, and Consultancy (CIIRC) and co-researcher. The lakes selected for the analysis were chosen based on their location and the significance they hold for the local communities and the environment.

"All the 10 lakes are situated in areas with high population density. Water bodies in densely populated areas often face unique challenges and have a greater impact on the lives of a larger number of people. Through these 10 lakes, we wanted to gain insights into the specific issues, such as water supply, pollution, urbanisation impacts, and recreational needs, that arise in these urban environments. Moreover, these lakes also hold immense significance for the local communities," added Dr Priya.

Researchers say it is important to understand how water bodies have changed over time to help manage water resources in the city and to protect water bodies from pollution and encroachment.

Need strict laws

However, effective management of lake encroachment requires stricter laws and more stringent punishment for defaulters. They also highlight the lack of regular surveys of lake areas and a clear plan of management. There needs to be more public awareness about the importance of lakes and the need to protect them from encroachment and pollution.

"Regular surveys help identify any changes in the condition of the lakes thus ensuring a timely intervention. Similarly, a management plan helps improve water quality apart from putting a check on encroachment cases.

Local communities can be involved in the protection of lakes. We can help to save city lakes in the city from being encroached on and ensure that they continue to provide a valuable service to the city," said Dr Priya.

The study also highlights the need for better financial and technical support to help communities protect urban wetlands.

Lakes	Change in the area (acres) (2000–2021)	% change in the area
Bellandur	39.388	4.7249
Begur	2.693	2.2149
Hulimavu	5.931	5.56
Agara	8.92	9.1
Sarakki	14.628	21.097
Hosakerehalli	4.744	8.6799
Arekere	7.858	3.03
Gottigere	1.21	5.303
Uttarahalli	1.408	11.176
Puttenahalli	2.199	22.8205

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IN 4DX PVR CINEMAS NEXUS | VEGACITY | MARKETCITY | ORION | BHARTIYA | CINEPOLIS SHANTINIKETAN
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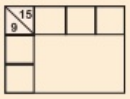
PVR CINEMAS NEXUS | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGACITY | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | VR | UPTOWN | ARENA | SPIRIT | GT | AURA | BHARTIYA | INOX MANTRI CENTRAL | SWAGATH | YELAHANKA | GARUDA | BROOKFIELD | VALUE MALL | LIDO | RMZ | SBR HORIZON | CINEPOLIS MEENAKSHI | ETA | SHANTINIKETAN ORION EAST | LULU | SJR | GOPALAN ARCADE | INNOVATIVE | LEGACY | SIGNATURE | GRAND | INNOVATIVE MARATHHALLI | MUKTA UTHARAHALLI KINO CINEMAS KADUGODI | ROCKLINE CINEMAS JALAHALLI | MIRAJ CINEMAS SUNKADAKATTE | CINEPHILE CINEMAS HSR LAYOUT SWAGATH SHANKARNAG M.G.RD | ANJAN MAGADI RD | CAUVERY SANKEY RD | BALAJI CHIKKALASANDRA | PRASANNA MAGADI RD | TIRUMALA AGARA HMT JALAHALLI | RENUKA PRASANNA J.P.NAGAR | RAVI SARJAPURA | PUSHPANJALI SULTANPALYA | VICTORY KAMAKSHIPALYA | VINAYAKA D.J.HALLI MANASA KONANKUNTE | SANDHYA MADIWALA | BRUNDA HONGASANDRA | LAKSHMI TAVAREKERE | KAMAKYA KATTRIGUPPE | RAVI SARJAPURA VINAYAKA MARATHHALLI | RENUKA PRASANNA J.P.NAGAR | SWAGATH POORNIMA J.C.ROAD | AMRUTH LINGARAJPURAM | BALAJI TAVAREKERE

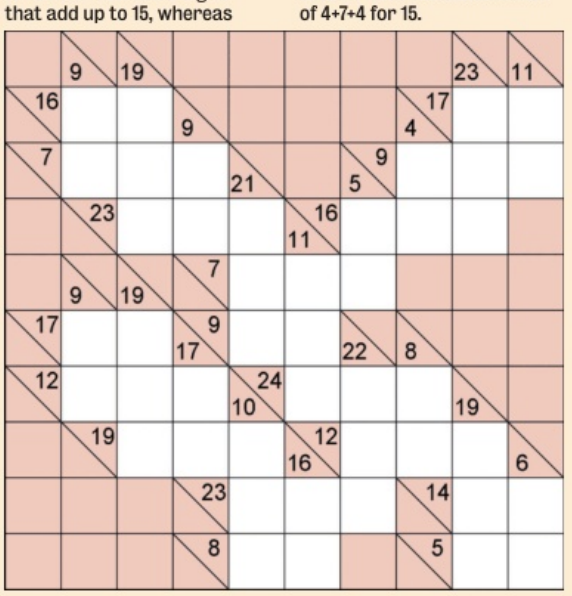
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

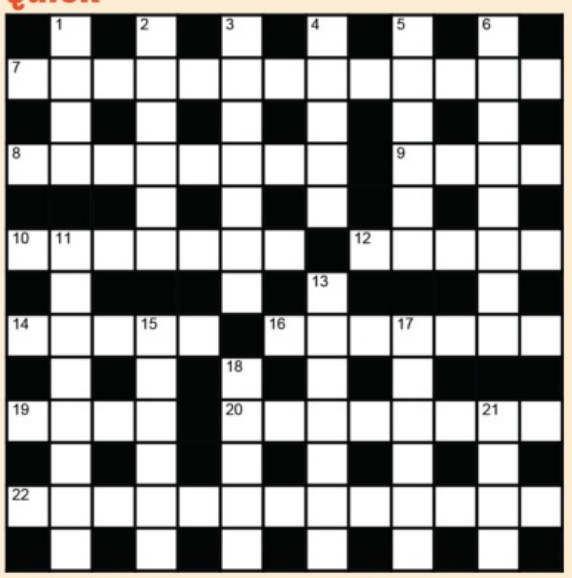


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Musical backing (13)
8 Private (8)
9 To pull along (4)
10 Find fault (7)
12 Magistrates (5)
14 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
16 Sully (7)
19 Beauty powder (4)
20 Attendance check (4,4)
22 Dominant quantity outweighing others (13)

DOWN

1 Dull pain (4)
2 Disposes of; completes; finishes (4,2)
3 Green vegetable (7)
4 Male relative (5)
5 Smear (6)
6 Makes better (8)
11 Excessive admiration (8)
13 Counts up (7)
15 Receive (6)
17 Divine beverage (6)
18 Practical joke (5)
21 Scottish lake (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS P

JFHVA GSFGES COKS OV OENFPL UTFEFATDOE MSPLTVJ LF US CFGSRHE.

Linemaro

I would rather fight with you than cuddle up with anyone else

Mindchow

Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends

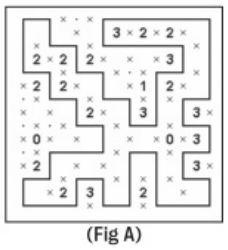
Joke of the day

Why do bagpipers walk when they play? They're trying to get away from the noise

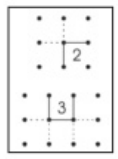
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

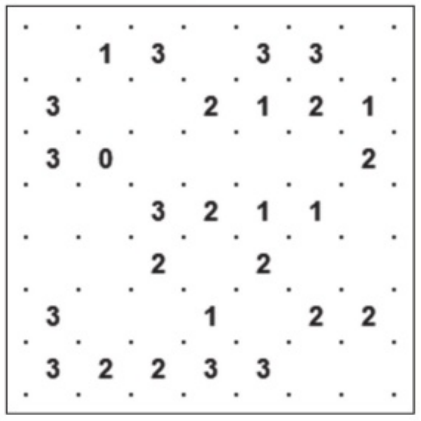


(Fig B) Not Allowed

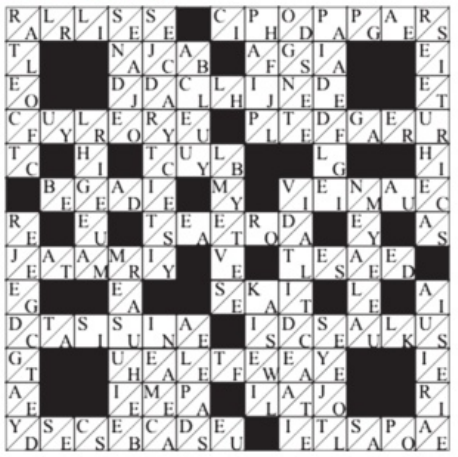
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8			C	
9				

ACROSS

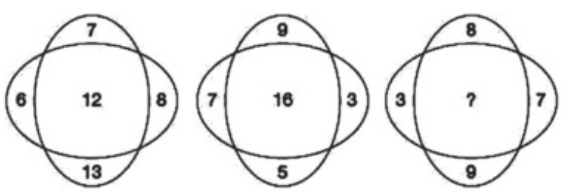
1 Ceres; 6 Akola;
7 Treen; 8 Cited;
9 To Hot

DOWN

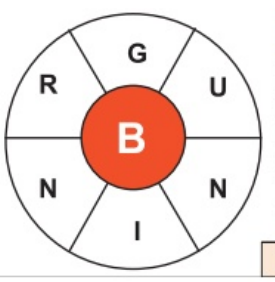
1 St eke; 2 Codon;
3 Tario; 4 Lee CT;
5 Heart

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2		7	3	8		6	
3		1	4		6	9		8
		9	5		3	8		
		2				7		
		8	2		7	3		
5		3	9		1	4		2
	1		8	4	5		3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
3 3 3 9

Medium = 2
3 5 6 7

Hard = 41
5 5 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Barber pole is different. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Line in sidewalk is missing. 5. Curtain is not as wide. 6. Stripes on shirt are different.

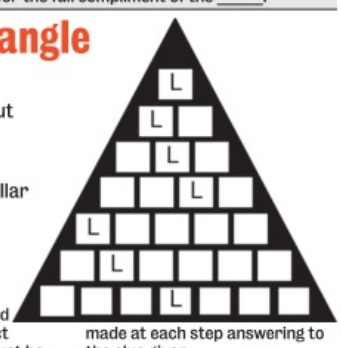
Riddler

Each of the sentences below use two words which are synonyms of each other, but here in these sentences, they are not used with the same meaning. Can you find the words ?

1. You cannot _____ to imagine what a _____ you gave me.
2. Service is my _____ name, you will always find me in the community _____.
3. The cook used the largest _____ to make a stew for the full compliment of the _____.

Alpha triangle

1 Litre
2 'Behold!'
3 Encouraging shout
4 Lone
5 Earring spots
6 Chaps
7 Tapering stone pillar



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

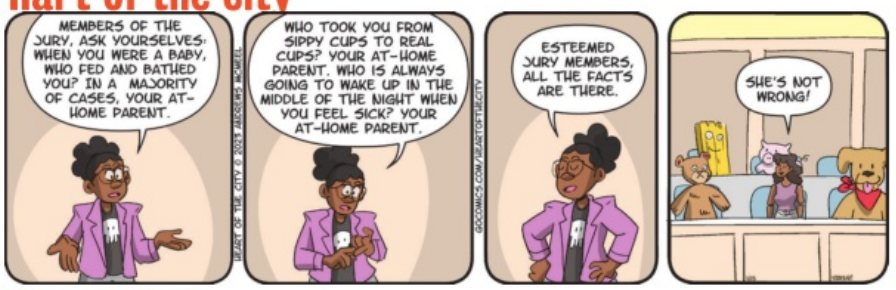
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features
Let's take the flying chariot to the forum & abduct a few citizens.
AREA LI
3-24-23

Diamond Lil

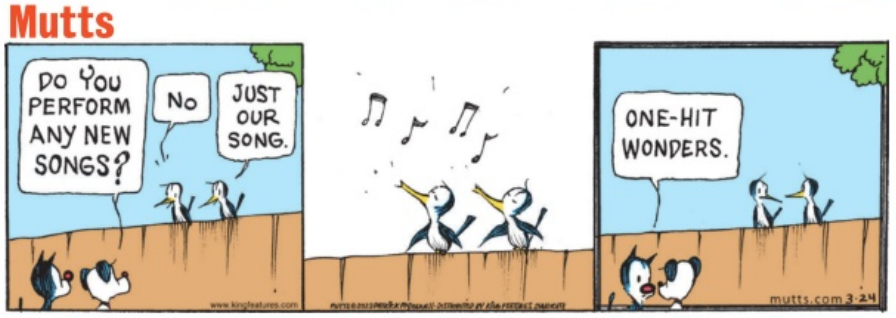
Hart of the city


MEMBERS OF THE JURY, ASK YOURSELVES: WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, WHO FED AND BATHED YOU? IN A MAJORITY OF CASES, YOUR AT-HOME PARENT.
WHO TOOK YOU FROM SIPPY CUPS TO REAL CUPS? YOUR AT-HOME PARENT. WHO IS ALWAYS GOING TO WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN YOU FEEL SICK? YOUR AT-HOME PARENT.
ESTEEMED JURY MEMBERS, ALL THE FACTS ARE THERE.
SHE'S NOT WRONG!
HART OF THE CITY © 2023 JASON MULLIGAN
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THOSE OLD SPIDER-MAN COMICS SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THIS BOX OF COMICS I BROUGHT HOME AFTER MY MOTHER DIED!
APPARENTLY SHE MUST HAVE THROWN SOME OF THEM AWAY!
YOU KNOW... EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GONE... YOUR MOTHER STILL MANAGES TO DISAPPOINT ME.
NO ARGUMENT HERE!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
3-21

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a favourable day; you are enthusiastic. Your focus is good in terms of business and work. You will dedicatedly perform given your tasks and may expect some promotions in your job. Your boss may be in your favor in terms of work-related decisions. There may be a visit to a spiritual place. It is advised to avoid ego and arrogance in your love life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel dull due to lack of proper rest. Your arrogance may cause some disputes with your spouse, affecting harmony in your domestic life. Investors are advised to avoid making new investments in risky assets. Students are advised to focus on their studies. Lovebirds should keep their distance in relationships.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, it is advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into non-performing assets. You may get tired due to overworking. Students are advised to work hard. You may experience backaches, nervous system issues, liver-related problems, and skin issues.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for you. Investors may see good gains in their investments, boosting financial health. Money that was stuck may be recovered, increasing liquidity in your business. You may become confident and gain control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles will likely find their match in the same field or workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may perform your best at work. You may have a good bond with seniors and receive new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured, and you may receive good recognition for your work. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now, and job seekers may find a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be busy with your kids' academics and may plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of having a child. You may consider updating yourself and making plans for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel detached from reality and may struggle to fulfill your responsibilities. Your investments may result in some losses. It is advised to read documents carefully before signing them. Elderly people's health may upset you. If you plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone the renovation for a while.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may help needy people, which can increase your social respect. You may also put in a hundred per cent effort in your work, resulting in completing it before the deadline. You may hear some good news from your siblings. Too much work may make you tired, so it is advised to avoid stress today as it can affect both your professional and personal life. Meditation and fasting are recommended.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with family events, becoming more polite with the people around you. This can enhance your image among relatives and friends. You will spend money on buying artifacts and other items that improve your social status. You may also receive good news from a close relative.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, disputes with your siblings may be settled, boosting your relationship with them. Your vitality seems good, which can help you complete difficult projects easily. After a short work-related trip, you may expand your network. Helping someone in need can increase your social status.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel dull and experience some health issues. Old diseases may reappear. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rushing while driving. You may have conflicts with your partner, so avoid making important business decisions. Investments in business or work are advised to be postponed. By late evening, things may be under control.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your internal power can make you happy, and you may gain some short-term benefit in terms of investments. You may establish a good relationship with your boss and expect some promotions. Your prestige in society may increase, and you may also anticipate some work-related travels.

KIDZONE

Gagan S, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Ra Yana Azam, 8 Years, Sjr Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
1. You cannot BEGIN to imagine what a START you gave me.
2. Service is my MIDDLE name, you will always find me in the community CENTER.
3. The cook used the largest VESSEL to make a stew for the full compliment of the SHIP.

SOLVE IN 1M
10÷(−4)+(−6)(−13)
10÷(−10)(−13)
10÷(−10)×(−13)
−1×−13 = 13

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	E	E
K	O	A	L	A
E	N	T	E	R
E	D	I	C	T
T	O	O	T	H

STRIKE OUT

A	R	L	E	S		C	H	O	P	P	E	R		
L		N	C	B		A	G	A			E			
O		D	A	L	L	I	E	D			T			
F	U	R	O	R	E		L	E	D	G	E	R		
T	H		C	U	B		L				I			
	E	B	E	D	I		Y		V	E	N	U	E	
	J	A	M	M	Y		E		L	E	A	D		
	E		U		T	E	T	R	A		Y		S	
	C	A	S	S	I	A		I	D	E	A	L	S	
	T		H	A	L	F	W	A	Y				E	
	E		I	M	P		I	T	O				R	
D	E	C	E	A	S	E		E	T	A	P	P	E	

QUICK

														H
													R	E
												N	C	E
											D	E	R	
										T	E		A	
									T	O			I	
								P	L	E			T	
							H		T				E	
							T						D	
							U						A	
						E		G		N				
						A		I		C		U		H
						M		P		I		O		C
						P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	

MENSA PUZZLE
4: (13 − 7 = 6) × (8 − 6 = 2) = 12; (9 − 5 = 4) × (7 − 3 = 4) = 16; (9 − 8 = 1) × (7 − 3 = 4) = 4.

QUOTE UNCODE
Young people have an almost biological destiny to be hopeful.

BULL'S EYE
brig, bring, bung, burg, burn, BURNING, grub

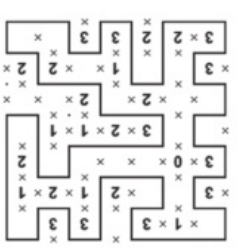
SUDOKU

9	2	5	7	3	8	1	6	4
4	8	6	1	5	9	2	7	3
3	7	1	4	2	6	9	5	8
7	4	9	5	1	3	8	2	6
1	3	2	6	8	4	7	9	5
6	5	8	2	9	7	3	4	1
5	6	3	9	7	1	4	8	2
8	9	4	3	6	2	5	1	7
2	1	7	8	4	5	6	3	9

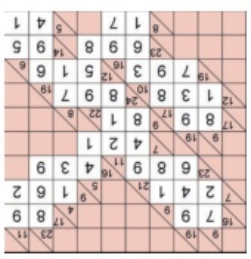
ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Lo, Ole, Sole, Lobes, Blokes, Obelisk.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 − 3 + 3 − 3 = 6
Medium
3 × 5 − 6 − 7 = 2
Hard
5 + 5 x 5 − 9 = 41

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Al Pacino to be a father
Actor Al Pacino will soon be a father for the fourth time — at age 83, US media said Wednesday. His partner, 29-year-old Noor Alfallah, is eight months pregnant

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Prequel time

The muhurat function for Dr Shivarajkumar's new Kannada movie Bhairathi Ranagal was held at Sri Bande Mahakali Temple at Gavipuram Guttahalli in the city recently. Geetha Shivarajkumar sounded the clap board.

Bhairathi Ranagal is a prequel to the film Mufti of 2017 in which Dr Shivarajkumar played the lead.

Geetha Shivarajkumar is bankrolling Bhairathi Ranagal under the Geetha Pictures banner. Narthan, who handled the megaphone for Mufti, will direct the prequel.

Director Narthan said Dr Shivarajkumar played Bhairathi Ranagal, a character that comes after the intermission in Mufti in and moviegoers still remember the character. "Bhairathi Ranagal is my favourite character in Mufti. I still maintain the same physique six years after the release of Mufti. That's the reason I could play this character," said Dr Shivarajkumar.

Revenge drama

Varun Gangadhar who has worked as a production executive for around 90 Kannada movies, is busy promoting his maiden movie – Hatya – as a director. Hathya is expected to be released in five languages – Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu shortly.

Varun said he used to observe directors and actors during the shooting and that is how he took to direction. He began his career as an assistant production executive for the film Sangliyana. "Generally, most production executives are busy with other work or relaxing on the sets while directors, technicians and actors are busy in shooting. I used to be with the director and actors on the sets," said Gangadhar.

He has also written scripts for films such as Tunturu, Neeru, Women's Day, Makkala Manasu, Puttana Swarga, and Hatya. Gangadhar is also bankrolling Hatya it along with Ramalingam and Shyam.

"Gruesome incidents that took place in Delhi and Hyderabad are the inspiration for this script. The film is about a hearing and speech impaired model who comes to Bengaluru. She is sexually harassed in the city. The story is about how she manages to take revenge," he said.

THE PERFECT HUBBY

How Sidharth 'bags' wife Kiara's love

How does a perfect husband look like? Take inspiration from Sidharth Malhotra.

Actor Sidharth Malhotra treated his fans with a look at a few of his throwback photos.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Ek Villain' actor shared photos on his Instagram story, where he can be seen carrying out his husband's responsibilities.

In the first image, the 'Yodha' actor is seen carrying several shopping bags. He captioned the photo, "Fulfilling husband duties, one bag at a time!@kiaraaliaadvani."

In the second image, Sidharth can be seen enjoying a burger while also holding additional bags for his sweet wife. "A quick bite before we get 'bag' to work.@kiaraaliaadvani, thank you for the treat," he wrote with a red heart emoji.

He is seen donning a white pullover and blue joggers. Kiara Advani also responded to the images and reshared it in her Instagram story with a reply.In response to the first picture, she wrote, "Anytime."

In her other story, she replied, "Making sure he works out! #SidFit."

Recently, after they got back from their vacation, Kiara shared a photo of herself and Sidharth on social media. They were shown in the photograph with their backs to the camera. She captioned the post, "Take me back already."

Sidharth and Kiara tied the knot in an intimate ceremony on February 7 at Suryagarh Palace in Rajasthan. They apparently fell in love while shooting for 'Shershaah', which was released in 2021.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kiara will be seen in the upcoming film 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'. She also has 'Game Changer' alongside 'RRR' actor Ram Charan in her kitty. On the other hand, Sidharth will be seen in his upcoming film 'Yodha'. He will also be making his digital debut with the upcoming web series 'Indian Police Force'.

—ANI

Rs 90L-ride for little one

Star couple Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover brought home their new luxury car and tagged it as their toddler daughter Devi's 'new ride'.

The car, an Audi Q7 is priced between Rs 84.70 lakh - 92.30 lakh on Cardekho.com. The star couple made a post on social media for their new purchase.

The clip shows Bipasha and Karan walking towards their new car, which is covered. The two are seen unveiling the plush white car and then cutting a cake for celebrations.

Bipasha captioned: "Devi's New Ride (red heart and evil eye emojis) Durga Durga (folded hands emoji) Thank you @audi_mumbaiwest for making this so special for us #audiq7 #devibasusinghgrover #newcar."

Bipasha and Karan got married in 2016 after working together on the sets of their film 'Alone'. — ANI

Nargis in Varanasi

Actor Nargis Fakhri has commenced shooting for her next project. The yet-to-be-announced project went on floors recently in Varanasi.

On Wednesday, treating her fans with glimpses of her exciting new journey, Nargis posted Instagram stories from the shoot location.

She captioned the first picture, "Waiting for the next shoot.", where the 'Madras Cafe' actor can be seen relaxing in a camp. She also posted a video from the streets of Varanasi and wrote, "#shootlife @3:41."

In another story, she shared a picture of graffiti from the streets of Varanasi. "I love all of these beautiful murals", she wrote.

— ANI

Bebo can strike a pose

Actor Kareena Kapoor posed for her husband and actor Saif Ali Khan as he clicked a beautiful photo of the diva.

Taking to Instagram, Kareena dropped a picture of herself and showered praised for Saif. She captioned the post, "Apart from being the best actor I know...he also does take the best pictures...any guesses who? The Husband... Ok bye time to workout..."

The images show Kareena posing in a white t-shirt that she paired with a grey shorts and green shoes.

Kareena looked stunning in minimal makeup and a sleek bun. Fans heaped praises on her after seeing the pictures. "Ohho looking Attitude really fantastic," a fan commented. "So Beautiful..." a netizen wrote.

Another commented, "Natural beauty." — ANI